

March 6, 2008

To: Members of the Legislature's Commerce Committee

Re: Removal of the Business Entity Tax, SB-400

I retired recently from a business career that included 22 years operating Connecticut based small-business corporations. I have also been a long-time Connecticut member of NFIB.

It pains me to say this, but, the small business community within this State largely survives in spite of, rather than because of, what legislators have done or are considering doing to the State's Small Business Environment.

Having been directly involved in following the course of legislation, and then having to conform to it, I can tell you that it is difficult to find a small-businessman who considers our State to be "Business Friendly".

There are signs of hope. Rob Simmons as the State's Business Advocate, given the support he deserves can be of significant value, and the consideration you are giving to eliminating this onerous "existence" tax is another step in the right direction. I strongly urge you to do so.

We in the small business community provide the economic underpinnings for our State's economic well being. You deal with us in small groups, like hotel owners, restaurants etc. I would suggest to you that anything you can do to change the climate of the State's various agencies, so that they view us as what we are, "Customers" to be served, rather than entities to be "controlled", would go a long way towards improving what must be improved and that is Connecticut's business climate.

Thank you

Sincerely;

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